

Vanleer Cedar Log Cabin  
Near Swedesboro, Gloucester County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-92

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Vanleer Cedar Log Cabin  
Near Swedesboro, Gloucester County, New Jersey

Owner: Florence P. Schorn

Date of Erection: Probably middle 18th century

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - sets on stones

Exterior walls - hand hewn  
cedar logs dovetailed, gable  
ends boarded

Interior walls - rough finish

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

A search of the title of this house is the only material we have. The present owner, Florence P. Schorn, received the property in 1924 from Martin Schorn who acquired it in 1898 from Mathias Muhlbaier. Muhlbaier bought from Hewes V. Black in 1895. From 1813 until that date the log cabin was in the hands of the Black family. Samuel Black purchased from the heirs of Mary Vanleer in 1813. It was her share in the division of the estate of George Vanleer. The Vanleer estate had about six hundred and ninety acres in it and it has been impossible to completely plot the division of the property.

In 1763 William Vanleer bequeathed to his brothers George, Samuel, and Benjamin his estate, appointing his brother George as the executor. This is the way that George apparently acquired the property where the cabin stands.

Bibliography:

A search of Gloucester County records and Philadelphia wills by Oscar F. Benjamin,  
Camden County Office

Walter E. Rutt  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour A. Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

A D D E N D U M

The following advertisement which is reprinted in the Archives undoubtedly relates to the tract of land upon which this cabin stands.

"To Be Sold

A Tract of Land, situate in the Township of Greenwich, and County of Gloucester, containing about 200 and some odd Acres of Wood-land, with some Meadow Ground thereto; it joins Rackoon Creek, about a Mile above the Head of the Tide, and two Miles from a navigable Landing, where the Timber may be conveyed to a Market; there is a fine Convenience to erect a Saw Mill, with little Expense. Any Person inclinable to see the Land, may apply to George Vanleer, living near the Premises: It is reckoned about 18 Miles from Philadelphia. For further Particulars, apply to Benjamin Vanleer, living in Maple Township, Chester County. The Pennsylvania Gazette No. 1771, Dec. 2, 1762"

It would seem from this that there was probably no dwelling of any nature on the land. It is mentioned as woodland and George Vanleer is spoken of as "living near the Premises". We gave originally the middle of the eighteenth century as the probable date of erection, but any time during the latter half of the eighteenth century would be a satisfactory date.

Bibliography:

Nelson, William (Editor) Extracts From American Newspapers Relating to New Jersey 1762-1765 Paterson, The Call Printing and Publishing Co., 1902 (Vol. XXIV of the Archives of the State of New Jersey First Series)

Nelson E. Ruck  
Supervising Historian